

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An elongate weatherstrip for a motor vehicle, said weatherstrip comprising, in combination,

a metal carrier including a length and a width and having a first longitudinally extending region of a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region adjacent said first region of a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, said first region being longitudinally distinct from said second region ~~and said width of said carrier in said first region equal to said width of said carrier in said second region,~~

wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures being spaced from each other a first distance along said length to define a first repeating pattern,

wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits being spaced from each other a second distance along said length different than said first distance to define a second repeating pattern that is different than said first repeating pattern, and

an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one sealing feature.

2. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.

3. (Currently Amended) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said ~~first region includes~~ a plurality of apertures are disposed generally centrally along said metal carrier.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

6. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is U-shaped in cross-section and a portion of said elastomeric material defines a corresponding U-shape.

7. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is a continuous, unitary piece.

8. (Currently Amended) A sealing strip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,

a U-shaped carrier having a first longitudinally extending region including a width and having a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region including a width equal to said width of said first region, said second region having a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, the first region being longitudinally spaced from the second region,

wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures being spaced from each other a first distance along said length to define a first shape and a first repeating pattern,

wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits being spaced from each other a second distance along said length different than said first distance to define a second shape and a second repeating pattern that is different than said first shape and said first repeating pattern, and

an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one feature adapted to provide a seal against a vehicle component.

9. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said U-shaped carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.

10. (Currently Amended) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said ~~first region includes a plurality of apertures~~ are disposed generally centrally along said U-shaped carrier.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

13. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a generally circular, hollow member.

14. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein a portion of said elastomeric material defines a shape corresponding to said U-shaped carrier.

15. (Currently Amended) A weatherstrip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,

a hybrid carrier having a first longitudinally extending region including a width and having a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region adjacent said first region and including a width equal to said width of said first region, said second region having a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, wherein said first and said second regions include substantially uniform flexibility along their respective widths,

wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures with each of said apertures having a first width along said length to define a first repeating pattern,

wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits with each of said transverse slits having a second width along said length different than said first width to define a second repeating pattern that is different than said first repeating pattern, and

an elastomeric sealing material encapsulating said carrier, said material defining at least one longitudinally extending sealing feature.

16. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said hybrid carrier is fabricated of metal.

17. (Currently Amended) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said ~~first region includes~~ a plurality of apertures are disposed generally centrally along said hybrid carrier.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

20. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said hybrid carrier is U-shaped in cross-section and said elastomeric material defines a corresponding U-shape.

21. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said first and said second regions have substantially uniform flexibility along their respective widths.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) The elongated weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said apertures are sized differently along said length than said transverse slits.

24. (New) The sealing strip of claim 8 wherein said apertures are sized differently along said length than said transverse slits.

25. (New) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said apertures are spaced from each

other a first distance along said length and said transverse slits are spaced from each other a second distance along said length different than said first distance.